

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of following comments are respectfully requested. As can be seen the above amendment, claims 1, 7, 12, and 14 are merely amended and claim 13 is canceled in order to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter on the present invention without adding any new matter.

In the Action, Claims 1-4, 7 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Taira et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of record is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the following discussion.

Referring to col. 10 line 51 to col. 11 line 39 of Taira et al., Taira et al. generates a self-refresh entry command and a self-refresh exit command for generating a self-refresh control signal. The self-refresh entry command and the self-refresh exit command correspond to self refresh entry signal SREF_EN and second self refresh exit signal CKE_SREF_SYN of the present invention, respectively. Also, the self-refresh control signal corresponds to self refresh signal SREF. Control signal generation circuit 14 of Taira et al. which outputs the self-refresh control signal corresponds to self refresh signal generator 50.

In the present invention, the self refresh signal SREF is fed back and input to a self refresh entry unit 100A and a self refresh exit unit 200A for participating in controlling an operation of the present invention with another control signal (see Fig. 3 of the present invention). The self refresh entry unit 100A and the self refresh exit unit 200A of the present invention corresponds to clock buffer 11 and command decoder 13 of Taira et al. As compared with the present invention, Taira et al. does not disclose that the self-refresh control signal is fed back for controlling a refresh operation.

That is, in Taira et al., an operation mode, i.e., a normal operation mode and a self refresh mode, is determined by various external control signals inputted to the command decoder 13 (see col. 6, lines 1 to 12) not by the self-refresh control signal. Therefore, it is clear that the present invention is different from the Taira et al.

Further, claim 14 is amended to clarify that the self refresh signal is the self refresh exit signal.

Although prior art Figure 1 shows that self refresh signal SREF is used as a feedback signal input to input to first and second buffers 13 and 22, since self-refresh exit unit 200 shown in Figure 1 does not include mixed clock generator 70 shown in Figure 3 and since prior art Figure 1 does not show clock buffer controller 60, or any mechanism for generating a second self-refresh exit signal synchronized with the clock signal, combining prior art Figure 1 with Taira et al., would not result in the present invention as now claimed.

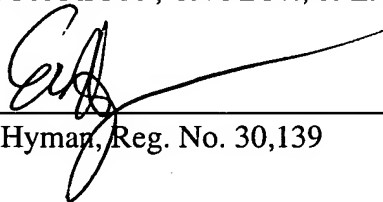
The Examiner's indication of allowability of Claims 5-6, 8-10 and 14 is noted. However, for the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that all claims pending for examination, namely Claims 1-12 and 14 are allowable over the prior art of record.

If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Questions regarding this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

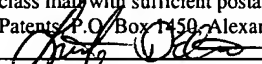
Dated: March 29, 2005

By: 
Eric S. Hyman, Reg. No. 30,139

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

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Linda DELIA